

BLANCO TO SEE GOMEZ.

On the Way to Make an Appeal to the Cuban General.

HIS OVERTURES FOR PEACE.

It Is Expected These Leaders Will Meet Near the Jucaro Trocha.

Gen. Blanco, a White Agent, to Tell Him that Antonio would be Frustrated and Peace Negotiations on the Basis of Independence—Blanco Consulted with Madrid—It Is Believed He Is Empowered to Offer Peace on Some Other Basis Than Antonio—The Cubans Are Willing to Pay Spain a Large Indemnity for Independence—Spaniards in Havana Doubt That Blanco Is Going to See Gomez—Spanish Riots in Matanzas—A Spanish Train Destroyed.

HAVANA, Jan. 25, via Key West.—The news has spread in town like wildfire to-day that Gen. Blanco has gone to make a conference with Gen. Gomez to discuss the peace negotiations. The Cuban authorities claim that this is an unfounded report, but upon careful investigation there is no doubt that there is something serious in the wind.

About a month ago Gen. Blanco received a letter from Gen. Gomez, in which the latter invited him to give peace to Cuba by recognizing its independence. The letter was very similar to the one addressed to Gen. Gomez by Gen. Marti. Gen. Blanco, when the former invaded the provinces of the West at the end of 1895 and early in 1896, Gomez, in his letter, Blanco quoted his letter to Marti. Gen. Blanco said that "such a letter as this would never address a line, but that to other Spanish Generals he would repeat that the responsibility of so much bloodshed in Cuba was upon Spain on account of her stubborn refusal to recognize Cuba's freedom."

The letter also said that the autonomy was not to be a failure because the Cubans desire only independence. On the basis of independence Gomez declared that he was ready to treat, and that he was not inspired by any personal hatred of the Spaniards, his only policy being not "to death to Spain," but "to liberty to Cuba."

This letter Gen. Blanco held for some time unanswered, but after many consultations with Madrid and some prominent men here he decided to approach Gen. Gomez and try to make him accept autonomy, even if some broader concessions should have to be made by Spain.

There is no doubt that Gen. Blanco is going to offer Spain an indemnity of \$100,000,000 for the independence of Cuba and that the same idea prevails in the Cuban Government, but it is also certain that he will energetically reject all proposals of autonomy.

It is believed here to-day that Blanco will send a message to Gomez, in which he will be starting to meet him. If the Cuban leader accepts the interview it will then take place at some point near the trocha in Santa Clara province. Gen. Gomez is reported to-day very near El Jucaro.

Riots similar to those which occurred in Havana are taking place now in Matanzas. The uncompromising Spaniards and the volunteers yesterday attacked the building in which the wealthy merchants of that city, Bea, Balido & Company, have their office. They also raided the office of the Aurora del Yumari, which is the oldest newspaper published in Cuba.

The regular troops fought the rioters, making several cavalry charges. The situation is very grave there, because the Government has not such large resources as in Havana for quelling the revolt. Gen. Molina, who is operating with his column around Matanzas, was hastily summoned to the town to-day to reinforce the troops.

The most terrible dynamite explosion caused by the Cubans during the war is just reported from Puerto Principe. A military train was completely destroyed by several dynamite bombs between Lugareño and Ramblazo. The train started from the port of Nuevitas bound for Puerto Principe, carrying reinforcements to Gen. Jimenez Castellan.

The armored cars were wrecked and so was the locomotive. The explosion made a hole in the ground four yards deep and the whole track for over a kilometre was ruined. Over fifty Spanish soldiers and officers were killed and forty badly wounded.

The news is confirmed that after his defeat at La Esperanza, Gen. Jimenez Castellan was hemmed in by Puerto Principe city by the insurgents under Gen. Lopez Recio, and that he is now besieged there and is in sore straits.

It is officially admitted here to-day that "formal attack has been made upon a Puerto Principe by the patriots, and according to reliable information Gen. Jimenez Castellan is short of provisions, and if reinforcements do not soon come he will be compelled to give up the city."

SITUATION IN CUBA.

Major Durrie Says It Is Fully as Bad as It Has Been Before.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 25.—Major Edward Durrie, Quartermaster-General of Louisiana, arrived here to-day from Havana, where he has been investigating affairs in Cuba. He found the situation in Havana fully as bad as it has been painted, the city being crowded with starving people begging from house to house for food, and whose numbers were daily increased by the refugees from the country. Food is scarce and very high. Bread is sold at the rate of 10 cents an ordinary meal is \$5 or \$4. The secret sentiment in Havana is in sympathy with the revolution.

Major Durrie was disposed to form a favorable opinion of Governor-General Blanco. Blanco had introduced a number of reforms which, however, were not popular with the officials. The entire Custom House force, which, under Weyler, had robbed both the Government and the people, had been discharged and new men employed. He found a great deal of sickness in Havana. Yellow fever and smallpox are raging there, and the hospitals are full. While he was there many Spanish troops were sent back to Spain, being incapacitated from further service because of illness. Major Durrie visited Moro Castle, and is of the opinion that any American man-of-war could completely demolish it in three hours.

GEORGE J. GOULD'S MINIATURES.

The Board of Appraisers Asked to Reduce the Rate.—Mr. Gould's Miniatures.

George J. Gould and Elbridge T. Gerry were interested in cases before the Board of General Appraisers yesterday. E. W. Glanzner of Gould & Co. appeared before the board to argue that a collection of eighteenth century miniatures, painted by the artist in the last trip abroad, and imported by the firm for export, should be admitted as works of art at 20 per cent duty instead of as jewelry at 40 per cent.

Commodore Gerry appeared before the board in person to endeavor to prove that some of the room furniture imported by him should come in free as the property of Louis XIV. The board reserved its decision.

HENRY LOONIE NELSON HURT.

The Editor of Harper's Weekly and His Wife Thrown Into an Ambulance.

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y., Jan. 25.—Henry Loomis Nelson, the editor of Harper's Weekly, and his wife were injured last night by the upsetting of their car while driving to Mrs. Nelson's home on Pelham road. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson arrived at New Rochelle from New York about 10:30 and were met at the depot by the coachman, Bernard Campbell. They drove rapidly toward home by the shortest route, which is over a private roadway through the Pindar property. A severe trench was cut into the road by the wheels of the car, and the carriage struck a heap of earth near the excavation, and the vehicle and its occupants fell into the trench.

Mr. Nelson and his wife were imprisoned in the carriage for fully ten minutes. They were helped out by an omnibus driver, who heard the coachman's cries for help. The coachman also was injured. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson were conveyed home in the omnibus and the coachman was taken to the hospital.

Mr. Nelson's right arm and hand were sprained, and he was bruised about the body. Mrs. Nelson's head was bruised and her face is badly swollen. Her right arm and hand were also injured. When the accident occurred Mrs. Nelson said to-night that she would be unable to write for several weeks.

"There was no light at the excavations," he added, "and we might have been killed had not the coachman held fast to the reins and kept the horse under control."

The accident will result in a suit for damages against the village.

TUBULAR DESPATCH COMPANY.

Will It Thrive Years? Permit to Show Mails Across the Bridge Held Good?

As announced in THE SUN of Jan. 16 John B. Milholland's Tubular Despatch Company has struck a snag in its scheme to lay tubes across the Brooklyn Bridge. Mr. Milholland's company secured a contract with the Federal Government to connect the mails through tubes across the bridge from the Post Office in New York to the Post Office in Brooklyn for \$14,000 a year. Then the Federal Government decided to let the company a franchise or lease to lay its tubes across the bridge and keep them there for a term of five years at \$1,000 a year. Afterward an additional extension of twenty-five years was granted, making in all thirty years. This was done in spite of the advice of James C. O'Brien, who is the trustee of the bridge, and who, while the first lease for five years might be valid, the courts would never sustain the additional lease for twenty-five years.

Shortly after the lease was signed the work of installing the conduits on the bridge was begun. A gang of workmen were busy tearing up the road on the bridge, and the tubes were being laid on the morning of Jan. 15, when John B. Milholland, the owner of the company, was informed that the work was being stopped.

Mr. Milholland's company had secured the right to lay the tubes on the bridge, and immediately ordered the work stopped and hastened to the Corporation Counsel's office, where he learned that the bridge trustees had decided to let the tubes be laid on the bridge, but that the work was being stopped.

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OUR WARSHIP AT HAVANA.

MUCH BOOMING OF CANNON WHEN THE MAINE WENT INTO PORT.

WARSHIP and La Cabana Exchange Salutes, Complimentary Visits Are Paid, and the Crews Are Thrown the Wreath to See Our Fine Great-Great Rejoicing Among Americans.

HAVANA, Jan. 25.—At 11 o'clock this morning the American battleship Maine entered Havana Bay and anchored near the Spanish cruiser Alfonso XII. The Spanish cruiser fired a salute of twenty-one shots and the salute was answered by the fortress of La Cabana.

The Captain de Puerto, or commander of the port, was the first Spanish authority to call on the Maine. A minute later the commanders of the German warship and the cruiser Alfonso XII. also boarded the Maine and paid their respects. A little later the Spanish Admiral also visited the United States warship. All the visitors remained on board for a short time exchanging courtesies with the commander of the Maine, Capt. Sigsbee. When the Spanish Admiral left the American battleship and entered his boat to return to the city the Maine saluted him with twenty-one guns. The Alfonso XII. answered with the same salute. Capt. Sigsbee told a correspondent that he was charmed by the friendly reception given to him.

The Spanish cannon in Havana Bay attracted to the wharves immense crowds. All the balconies and windows of the houses around the bay were also crowded. The Maine presented a very fine appearance with all her crew drawn up on deck.

At 2 P. M. Capt. Sigsbee left the Maine and called on the Spanish Admiral, the Captain de Puerto, the commander of the cruiser Alfonso XII, and the commander of the German warship, to return their visits. His calls were short, and after he had finished he landed in Havana alone, leaving all his men on board the Maine.

From the wharf he went direct to the American Consulate to call on the Consul-General. The American colony here is very enthusiastic over the arrival of the Maine, and a banquet will be given to welcome the visitors.

KEY WEST, Jan. 25.—A despatch from Havana says that Consul-General Lee and many Americans in Havana paid the Maine a visit and warmly congratulated Capt. Sigsbee on the beautiful appearance of his ship. It did them good to see the old flag once more at that harbor.

To-night the officers of the Maine will be entertained by the officers of the German ships, it is said, and to-morrow will be the turn of the Spanish officers. They have extended the right hand of fellowship to the Americans, and have been in their willingness to do so.

Reports from the city say that in some quarters the arrival of the American man-of-war has created much feeling, and it may require considerable work on the part of the police to prevent a mob outbreak, especially in the lower quarters. Several arrests were made by the police to-day, and the cause was the disturbance of the peace of the city.

Palace officials say that nothing will take place to disturb the present serenity. The police are quietly gathering in the ring leaders of the mob element and are arranging large reinforcements of patrol at night, especially along the route of the procession.

Much curiosity was manifested by the people regarding the Maine and her armament, and her size and appearance astonished them very much, as many had been led to believe that the American navy consisted of small gunboats like the one used in guarding the Canal zone.

Many regard the Maine at Havana as an Act of Provocation.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

MADRID, Jan. 25.—The members of the Government and other officials here say they have no intention of being attacked by the visitors. American warships to Havana, to which Spain could not object when the relations between the two countries are friendly, and in view of the statement made by the United States Government regarding the despatch of the Maine.

The newspapers, on the contrary, sharply reprimand the Government for not having taken any steps to prevent the Maine from coming here by sending the Maine to Havana. The Imperial, among others, stigmatizes the despatch of the warship as an unwarranted act of provocation. A majority of the newspapers advise the people of Havana to show forbearance.

WASHINGTON LIKES THE NEWS.

Crowds View the Model of the Maine in the Navy Department—Concentrating Ships.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—With the battleship Maine at anchor in the harbor of Havana and American interest in the matter of adequate force in the first time in three years, President McKinley and the members of the Cabinet are congratulating themselves over the Cuban situation. Señor Dupuy de Lome is sending up means of rejoicing for publication in the newspapers of the United States and Spain. He tells every body that the friendly visit of the American warships have been resumed. It is even asserted that the Spanish envoy takes to himself the credit of having the Maine sent to Havana, a report which causes Administration officials to smile significantly.

They are good reasons for believing that Señor Dupuy de Lome was outgeneraled by such an untrained diplomatist as Judge Day, the Assistant Secretary of State. When the Minister took advantage yesterday of a visit to Judge Day to speak of the tranquility which prevailed in Havana he found the Assistant Secretary surprisingly acquiescent.

The presence is kept up officially that the United States and Spain are on the best of terms, and it is natural that the Administration should be anxious to keep the peace. The further the idea that there is nothing significant in placing the Maine in Havana harbor.

The Vice-President is said to be going on the Maine to see the ship. He is thinking of the next day in which Spanish consent to the presence of the Maine in Havana harbor.

The Maine arrived quietly at 11 o'clock. The vessel of the United States Navy have merely resumed their customary visits to the port of Havana.

While all this talk about peace in Cuba and the friendly relations of the two nations, the officials of the Administration are going on the Maine to see the ship. He is thinking of the next day in which Spanish consent to the presence of the Maine in Havana harbor.

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naval Board. Heretofore the fleet has been subject directly to the wishes of the Navy Department. A regular fleet was arranged which was to be sent to the Philippines. The fleet was to be sent to the Philippines. The fleet was to be sent to the Philippines.

Two of the torpedo boats, the Cushing and the Dupont, have been assigned to remain at Key West. The fleet was to be sent to the Philippines. The fleet was to be sent to the Philippines.

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ENGLAND CLAIMS HER OWN.

MR. CURSON'S VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

He Says That Every British Government Will Insist Upon Great Britain's Treaty Rights—No Emphasis on the Declaration Made by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach—Russia Firm.

LONDON, Jan. 25.—In a speech to-night at Bolton Mr. George N. Curson referred to the Chinese situation in terms which, though not very direct, were clearly in intention to widen the scope of the utterances recently made by members of the Government. He said that as the other powers were showing a disposition to acquire special advantages in China, Great Britain was entitled to claim compensatory advantages, and to demand that privileges should be granted to her which would be in accordance with British treaty rights. It seemed to be thought in some quarters that any foreign power might, by establishing what is called a sphere of influence, introduce its own tariff and set up exclusive commercial control. Such a sphere could not possibly give any government the right to acquire special advantages in China, and under her treaties Great Britain enjoyed precisely the same right of entry in every port under the same conditions and tariff as any other power. Great Britain's treaty rights rendered the operation of spheres of influence in China impossible. Every British subject who was in China was entitled to the same rights as any other subject of any other power. This remark elicited loud cheers.

From the foregoing it appears to be Great Britain's intention not only to keep the existing treaty ports open, as the speech of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach has been widely interpreted to mean, but to insist upon having whatever rights she obtains in the future in every Chinese port.

Some of the morning newspapers, in their editorial comments on the speech, say that "compensatory advantages." The Standard, a Tory organ, suggests that it would be more accurate to say consequential guarantees.

Mr. Curson, according to the Standard, is a Tory, and he is very much in favor of the negotiations for a loan said: "We have every reason and right to hope that they will be successful."

RUSSIA OPPOSES ENGLAND.

Strenuous Efforts at Peking to Defeat British Purposes.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PEKING, Jan. 25.—M. Pavloff, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, is pressing the Government to immediately reject the conditions proposed by Great Britain in connection with the proposed loan. He has informed the Tsungli-Yamen that Russia is willing to provide a loan on the same financial terms as those offered by Great Britain.

M. Dubail, the French Chargé d'Affaires, supports M. Pavloff.

100,000 PERSONS IN CELLARS.

It Looked Like a Tornado in St. Louis and the City Was Panic Stricken.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 25.—A gale swept through this city to-day carrying death, destruction, and panic on its wings. Thousands of dollars of damage was done. Business was suspended for a day. The city was in a state of panic. The city was in a state of panic.

The gale's highest velocity was sixty-six miles an hour. The storm started before dawn. There was a heavy rain followed by hail. Then came a period of clearness. At 9:30 it looked as though a tornado was coming.

At once the city was panic stricken. Within a radius of a block downtown 150 chimneys were blown down. Traffic was stopped. Fully 100,000 persons sought refuge in cellars and basements till the storm was over.

SKUNKS IN THE CITY HALL.

Public Municipal Business in Cleveland Demoralized for a Time.

CLEVELAND, O., Jan. 25.—Officials and others having business in the Cleveland City Hall were practically forced to abandon their work to-day owing to the fact that fully twenty skunks had taken possession of the building.

The skunks, a party of boys engaged in a skunk hunt on the eastern outskirts of this city. They caught twenty-seven and started downtown with them to-day, the skunks being in boxes. When opposite the City Hall the boxes fell and broke.

The skunks, thus liberated, scampered in all directions. Nearly all of them found refuge in the basement of the City Hall, which they entered by the back door. The skunks were in the City Hall for some time. The City Hall was in a state of panic.

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UNCONSCIOUS FIFTEEN MONTHS.

Case of Suspended Animation Made Known by a Physician's Affidavit.

According to evidence introduced before Recorder Goff yesterday William Scott, a former employee in the trunk shop under the Astor House, has been unconscious for fifteen months as the result of an assault.

Scott was injured on Oct. 20, 1896. His alleged assailants were soon afterward indicted, but it was necessary to determine the extent of Scott's injury before they could be brought to trial.

Yesterday an affidavit was handed up to the Recorder made by Dr. Wilbur L. Ricard of Brooklyn, who has studied Scott's case carefully.

"So far as I have been able to ascertain," the physician said in his affidavit, "this is the strangest case of suspended animation on record. I do not believe that the injured man will ever recover consciousness; neither do I see that it is possible for him to live much longer. Still, Scott has surprised every one by living as long as he has."

The men who are accused of assaulting Scott were employees of the Department of Public Works named Schlesinger and Clarke.

HYPNOTISM IN SURGERY.

Straightening of the Carriage in the Neck Accomplished Without Pain.

CLEVELAND, O., Jan. 25.—Hypnotic influence spared a woman the experience of what would otherwise have been a very painful operation this afternoon. It was tried on Mrs. O'Neil, a woman 26 years of age, in the presence of all the students at the Cleveland Homoeopathic Medical College.

The operation was performed by Prof. George H. Curry, professor of diseases of the nose and throat, for what is technically known as the straightening of the deflected septum or cartilage which separates the nostrils, which in this case was so deflected as to obstruct one nostril.